

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-03 FMC-01 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01

DLOS-03 SWF-01 SAJ-01 L-02 H-01 SP-02 DRC-01 NSC-07

MC-02 ACDA-09 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5079

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13053

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA CH ETRN

SUBJ: PROGRESS ON PRC-JAPAN SHIPPING TALKS

REF: PEKING 1734

SUMMARY: IN SHIPPING NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN, PEKING REPORTEDLY INDICATED POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE TAIWAN ISSUE THROUGH UNPUBLISHED MEMORANDUM STATING GOJ'S POSITION. IF CHINESE FLEXIBILITY ON FLAG AND OTHER UNRESOLVED ISSUES CONTINUES, GOJ MAY RELEASE STATEMENT TO PRESS ANNOUNCING RESUMPTION OF SHIPPING TANKS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LUNCHEON OCT 7 FOR GLEYSTEN, FONOFF CHINA DIV DEP DIRECTOR FUJITA EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT BREAKTHROUGH WITH PRC ON SHIPPING TALKS MIGHT PERMIT AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" SOON. CHECKING WITH CHINA DEP DIRECTOR OGURA WE LEARNED THAT DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN KIMURA IN NEW YORK SEPT 26, PRC FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF PROCEEDING RAPIDLY WITH
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NEGOTIATIONS. AS FOLLOWUP, JAPANESE EMBASSY MINISTER

IN PEKING DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH PRC FONOFF DEP DIRECTOR
ASIAN BUREAU WHO INDICATED THAT PEKING WOULD PERHAPS BE
WILLING TO ACCEPT AN UNPUBLISHED GOJ STATEMENT ON TAIWAN
FLAG ISSUE. REMAINING ISSUES: A. EQUALIZING MFN BENEFITS
FOR BOTH NATIONS, B. ASSISTANCE TO MARITIME CASUALTIES,
AND C. SHIPPING CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES. IF FURTHER SOUNDINGS
CONFIRM

PEKING'S WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE TAIWAN FLAG ISSUE IN PRIVATE
FASHION AND CONTINUED CHIESES FLEXIBILITY ON OTHER ISSUES TO
BE RESOLVED, AS HAS BEEN CASE IN RECENT CONTACTS, GOJ MAY
RELEASE STATEMENT TO PRESS STATING THAT SHIPPING NEGOTIATIONS
HAVE BEEN RESUMED.

2. SUJITA, SAYING THAT PROBLEMS COULD PERHAPS BE RESOLVED IN
WEEK OR SO, COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANCE COULD
BE REACHED BEFORE EIGHT-MAN DIET GROUP VISITS TAIWAN LATER
THIS MONTH SINCE VISIT WILL IRRITATE PEKING. HOWEVER, HE HOPES
GOJ'S FIRM POSITION WITH PEKING ON TAIWAN PROBLEM IN SHIPPING
TALKS WILL PLEASE TAIPEI AND AID IN SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE
AIR LINK.

3. COMMENT: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DEP DIRGEN ASIAN BUREAU
NAKAE, WHILE MORE CAUTIOUS THAN FUJITA, HE NEVERTHELESS ESTIMATED
CHANCES OF REACHING AGREEMENT BY YEAR'S END WERE SEVENTY PERCENT.
HODGSON

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